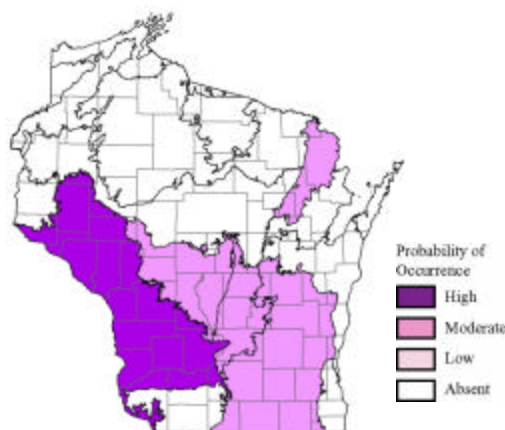


Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	3
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	3
Global threats:	2
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.1
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Oak barrens
Central Sand Hills	Sand prairie
Central Sand Plains	Oak barrens
Central Sand Plains	Pine barrens
Central Sand Plains	Sand prairie
Northeast Sands	Pine barrens
Southeast Glacial Plains	Cedar glade
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Cedar glade
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak barrens
Western Coulee and Ridges	Pine barrens
Western Coulee and Ridges	Sand prairie

Threats and Issues

- Succession of barrens habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to suppress woody growth.
- Intensification of agriculture and conversion of short grassland to row crops or to tree plantations that are allowed to mature beyond 10 years.
- Loss of grassland habitat due to development.
- Disturbance of grassland nesting cover during the breeding season.
- Lark Sparrows require relatively short grass with areas of exposed soil, such as barrens; activities that remove these features from the landscape pose a threat.
- Substantial invasion by woody plants can degrade the quality of nesting grasslands.

- Aggressive invasive forbs, including yellow parsnip, crown vetch, leafy spurge, thistles, reed canary grass, and some goldenrods can degrade habitat quality of grasslands for this species.
- Agricultural pesticides may pose a threat in certain cases on winter, migration, and breeding grounds.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Continue agricultural set-aside programs, especially those that allow for permanent protection of preferred habitats.
- Work with planning and zoning authorities to protect valuable open grassland/barrens landscapes from being converted to urban or suburban development.
- Partnerships are key for conserving this species in working agricultural landscapes.